Remarks

The specification and claims have been amended to correct, and thereby accurately reflect, the water-soluble polymer particle size. As noted in the previous response, Applicants have re-analyzed Experiments contained within the original specification, and determined that the correct particle size for the invention water-soluble polymer is properly 1-10 μm. This change is supported by Applicants' own experiments present in the application, and thus no new matter is entered, as attested to by the previously filed Declaration of Dr. Volker Braig.

Dr. Braig's Declaration fully supports the amendment correcting the specification and claims regarding correct particle size, as the Examples analyzed therein are "representative examples of the instant application" that were "reworked exactly as described in the instant application." See page 2, bottom, of the Declaration. The results demonstrate the inherent nature of the correction. Clearly, and as explicitly stated in the Declaration, the values obtained by repetition of the Examples support the range of 1-10 μm as it is common experience to include known variances in measurement precision in determining a range. Thus, endpoint values of 3 +/- 2 μm and 8 +/- 2 μm yields a range of 1-10 μm. See page 3 of the Declaration, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs. No new matter has been entered.

The old rejection of Claims 1-4 over Sato is traversed. The rejection critically relies upon the assumption, set out at page 4 of the Official Action, that the claimed particle size would be met by the reference inherently. However, this is not the case.

Applicants have repeated the Sato disclosure and determined that the Sato particle size is in fact from 20-100 μm at the several stages of processing disclosed in the reference. In this regard, see the second Declaration of Dr. Braig, attached.

The last Official Action notes that a copy of this Declaration was not available to the Examiner, and it is thus resubmitted. Should the Examiner have any trouble viewing it she is kindly asked to contact applicant, who will supply another copy.

Because particle size is an important factor in polymer dispersions having an effect on the stability of such a dispersion,[1] it is clear that the aqueous solution/dispersion disclosed in Sato is distinctly different from that claimed herein.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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[1] In fact, sedimentation is proportional to the square of the radius of the particles. See pages 3-4 of the second Braig Declaration.